Patent

Attorney's Docket No. F0680

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	)	
	)	
Mrudula KANURI et al.	)	Group Art Unit: 2661
	)	
Application No.: 09/881,019	)	Examiner: I. Moore
	)	
Filed: June 15, 2001	)	
	)	
For: REMOTE CONFIGURATION OF A SUBNET CONFIGURATION TABLE IN A NETWORK DEVICE	)	

TRANSMITTAL FOR APPEAL BRIEF

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Appeal Brief in support of the Notice of Appeal filed January 4, 2006.

Enclosed is a check for ☐ $250.00 ☒ $500.00 to cover the Government fee.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other appropriate fees that may be required by this paper that are not accounted for above, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. F0680

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

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APPEAL BRIEF

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

This Appeal Brief is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 4, 2005, and in support of the Notice of Appeal filed January 4, 2006.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in this appeal is Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellants are unaware of any related appeals, interferences or judicial proceedings.

III. STATUS O CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1-18 are the subject of the present appeal.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No Amendment has been filed subsequent to the Final Office Action mailed October 4, 2005.

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Each of the independent claims involved in this appeal is recited below, followed in parenthesis by examples of where support can be found in the specification and drawings for the claimed subject matter. In addition, each dependent claim argued separately is summarized below.

Claim 1 is directed to a system for transmitting packets of information. The system includes a multiport switch (Fig. 1, element 180; Fig. 2; and paragraphs [0036] through [0048]) connected to a plurality of subnets through ports of the multiport switch, each of the plurality of subnets (Fig. 3, elements 313-315; and paragraph [0050]) being

associated with a subnet Internet Protocol (IP) address, the multiport switch further including a configuration table (Fig. 4, element 305) storing associations between the subnet IP addresses and the ports of the multiport switch. The system of claim 1 also includes a host processor (Figs. 1 and 3, element 160; and paragraphs [0033] and [0053]) connected locally to the multiport switch and a remote processor (Fig. 3, element 306). The remote processor communicates with the multiport switch through the host processor using an IP address assigned to the multiport switch (Paragraphs [0053], [0057], and [0058]). The remote processor remotely configures the configuration table in the multiport switch (paragraph [0058]).

Claim 3 further defines the system of claim 1 and recites a router coupled to at least one port of the multiport switch (Fig. 3, element 320).

Claim 4 further defines the system of claim 1 and recites that the router is coupled to a second plurality of subnets (Fig. 3, elements 310-312), the second plurality of subnets connecting to the multiport switch through the router.

Claim 6 further defines the system of claim 1 and recites that the multiport switch is a layer 3 switch (paragraph [0036]).

Claim 8 is directed to a method of processing packets in a network device (Fig. 1, element 180). The method includes receiving a packet at one of a plurality of receive ports in the network device, the packet including address information that indicates at least a destination subnet for the packet (paragraph [0055]); identifying, via a configuration table, one or more output ports in the network device for the packet based

on the address information (paragraph [0054]); forwarding the packet to the destination subnet via the identified one or more output ports (paragraph [0055]); and allowing a remote processor to remotely configure the configuration table, the remote processor transmitting information to configure the configuration table using an IP address uniquely assigned to the network device (paragraphs [0057] and [0058]).

Claim 13 is directed to a network device for routing packets received in a packet-switched network. The network device includes means for receiving the packets from the network (Fig. 2, element 205; and paragraphs [0037] and [0038]), each of the packets having information that includes at least destination information that indicates an intended destination subnet for the packet (paragraphs [0051] and [0052]); and a configuration table storing associations between Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of subnets and output ports of the multiport switch (Fig. 4, element 305), the configuration table being remotely updated to reflect configuration information received from a remote processor (paragraphs [0057] and [0058]). The network device further includes means for determining appropriate output ports in the network device for the received packets based on the destination information and the configuration table (Fig. 1, element 180; and paragraph [0055]); and transmit means for transmitting the packets from the output ports determined by the means for determining (Fig. 2, element 210; and paragraph [0038]).

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

A. Whether claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13-17 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §

102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,826,176 to Siddiqui et al. (hereinafter "Siddiqui").

B. Whether claims 8 and 13 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,825,772 to Dobbins et al. (hereinafter "Dobbins").

C. Whether claims 6, 12, and 18 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Siddiqui as modified by U.S. Patent No. 6,101,189 to Tsuruoka ("Tsuruoka").

VII. ARGUMENT

A. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Siddiqui should be reversed.

1. Claims 1, 2, 7

A proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that a single reference teach every aspect of the claimed invention either expressly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. See M.P.E.P. § 2131. Appellants submit that Siddiqui does not disclose, either expressly or inherently, each and every feature recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 is directed to a system. The system includes a multiport switch connected to a plurality of subnets through ports of the multiport switch, each of the plurality of subnets being associated with a subnet Internet Protocol (IP) address, the multiport switch further including a configuration table storing associations between the subnet IP addresses and the ports of the multiport switch. The system of claim 1 additionally includes a host processor connected locally to the multiport switch and a

remote processor communicating with the multiport switch through the host processor using an IP address assigned to the multiport switch, the remote processor remotely configuring the configuration table in the multiport switch.

As described in the instant specification, aspects consistent with the present invention provide for a number of benefits, such as the ability to remotely configure a multiport network switch. (See, for example, paragraphs [0057] and [0058] of the specification).

Siddiqui discloses a media gateway (MGW) that controls the routing of data packets through a "connectionless" packet-switched network without bearer channel control signaling. (Siddiqui, Abstract). The MGWs of Siddiqui include a port mapping table 230 that is used to associate a UDP port of a host MGW with a UDP port of a remote MGW. (See Siddiqui, Fig. 2 and column 4, lines 59-62).

Siddiqui does not disclose or suggest each of the features recited in claim 1. Siddiqui, for example, does not disclose or suggest the host processor and the remote processor of claim 1, where the host processor is connected locally to the multiport switch and the remote processor remotely configures the configuration table in the multiport switch.

Siddiqui discloses a port mapping table 230 (Fig. 2). Port mapping table 230, however, is not configured remotely by a remote processor. Instead, as is clearly disclosed by Siddiqui, the port mapping tables of Siddiqui are created and configured by their host MGWs. That is, port mapping table 230 of Siddiqui, which is shown in Fig. 2

as being stored in MGW 120-B, is configured only by MGW 120-B. Siddiqui makes this particularly clear at column 5, lines 37-39, in which Siddiqui states, in reference to the "remote" MGW 120-A: "[t]he MGW 120-A is unaware of this mapping and, thus, does not know the destination UDP port address." The other MGW's discussed by Siddiqui are equally unaware of entries made by MGW 120-B to port mapping table 120-B.

Appellants submit that a device that is totally unaware of a mapping into a mapping table could not possible be said to correspond to a remote processor that remotely configures a configuration table in the multiport switch, as recited in claim 1.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner points to a number of sections of Siddiqui as allegedly corresponding to the remote processor recited in claim 1. In particular, the Examiner points to column 4, lines 10-35 and 55-62; and column 5, line 1 through column 6, line 49 of Siddiqui. (Final Office Action, page 5). These sections of Siddiqui generally describe the operation of MGW 120-B in updating port mapping table 230 to allocate resources for a call. As discussed above, however, the updating of port mapping table 230 by MGW 120-B in no way discloses or suggests, as is recited in claim 1, a "remote processor remotely configuring the configuration table in the multiport switch."

In the Response to Arguments section of the Final Office Action (page 14), the Examiner addresses Appellants' argument that Siddiqui does not disclose a remote processor remotely configuring a configuration table in a multiport switch. In particular, the Examiner states the MGW-C 110A is being considered the remote processor recited in claim 8, and not MGW 120-A. MGW-C 110A, however, appears to be equally

unaware of the mapping into mapping table 230 as is MGW 120-A. Specifically, Siddiqui makes exceedingly clear that port mapping table 230 of MGW 120-B is configured by MGW 120-B, and not by a remote device. Column 5, lines 30-45 of Siddiqui, for example, states:

> When MGW 120-B receives the Add request, it selects a UDP Port address, such as "6666," and adds an entry to a port mapping table 230 that maps the source address (IP address plus UDP Port) to the selected UDP Port address. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 3, the source address, which includes the IP, or "external," node address of MGW 120-A and UDP port address "5555" are mapped to the selected, or "internal," UDP port address "6666." The MGW 120-A is unaware of this mapping and, thus, does not know the destination UDP port address. Once the MGW 120-B has assigned the resource UDP port 221-B, it acknowledges the Add request with an Accept message, and the MGW-C 110-B then sends the IAM to the external network (not shown) and, upon receiving an acknowledgement, or Address Completion Message (ACM), the MGW-C 110-B forwards the ACM to MGW-C 110-A.

(Siddiqui, column 5, lines 30-45) (emphasis added). As the underlined portions of this section of Siddique make clear, mapping table 230 of MGW 120-B is not remotely configured. Instead, MGW 120-B receives requests, such as the "Add" request, and in response, MGW 120-B appears to independently select and/or assign a UDP port as part of responding to the request. Nothing in Siddiqui, however, discloses or suggests that any device is able to configure table 230 of MGW 120-B except for MGW 120-B itself. Therefore, Siddiqui does not disclose or suggest, as is recited in claim 1, "a remote processor communicating with the multiport switch through the host processor using an IP address assigned to the multiport switch, the remote processor remotely configuring the configuration table in the multiport switch."

Claim 1 also recites a "multiport switch connected to a plurality of subnets through ports of the multiport switch, each of the plurality of subnets being associated with a subnet Internet Protocol (IP) address, the multiport switch further including a configuration table storing associations between the subnet IP addresses and the ports of the multiport switch." The Examiner contends that media gateway (MGW) 120-B corresponds to the multiport switch recited in claim 1. (Final Office Action, page 5). Applicants submit, however, that a media gateway is not equivalent to a multiport switch, as the term is generally used in the art, and certainly not a multiport switch connected to a plurality of subnets through ports of the multiport switch, as recited in claim 1. Siddiqui, in fact, never mentions the term subnet, much less a plurality of subnets connected through ports of a multiport switch.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Final Office Action (page 15), the Examiner addresses Appellants' argument that MGW 120-B cannot be considered to be a multiport switch. The Examiner states:

> As shown in Fig. 2, Siddiqui's media gateway switch 120-B switches the data to/from other media gateways MGW 120A,B-D via Internet/IP network, and the per Fig. 3, port mapping table clearly shows a plurality of ports with their associated gateway addresses. Thus, it is clear that a multiport switch is a media gateway switch/router/bridge 120-B.

(Final Office Action, page 15). Appellants submit that simply because a device forwards data via ports does not make it a multiport switch, much less the multiport switch of claim 1, which is specifically recited as a multiport switch "connected to a plurality of subnets through ports of the multiport switch, each of the plurality of subnets being

associated with a subnet Internet Protocol (IP) address" (emphasis added). In contrast, the media gateways of Siddiqui are described as gateways that communicate "some form of media data, such as voice, video or data." (Siddiqui, col. 3, lines 49-51). The media gateways of Siddiqui appear to be significantly different in design and purpose than a multiport switch, as this term is known in the art and as is consistently described in the instant specification (see, for example, paragraphs [0027] through [0048] and [0052] of the instant specification for a description of an exemplary multiport switch).

For at least these reasons, Appellants submit that Siddiqui does not disclose or suggest each of the features recited in claim 1. The rejection of claims 1, 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Siddiqui should therefore be reversed.

2. Claim 3

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and further recites that the system of claim 1 includes a router coupled to at least one port of the multiport switch. The Examiner appears to contend that MGW 120-A of Siddiqui corresponds to a router. (Final Office Action, page 5). Appellants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of Siddiqui. MGW 120-A is clearly described by Siddiqui as a media gateway, not a router. See, for example, column 3, lines 48-51 of Siddiqui: "Using the system 100 illustrated in Fig. 1, it is desired to communicate some form of media data, such as voice, video or data, between a first Media Gateway (MGW) 120-A and a second MGW 120-B." One of ordinary skill in the art can appreciate that a media gateway in a network cannot fairly be

construed to be equivalent to a router.

For at least this reason also, the rejection of claim 3 based on Siddiqui is improper and should be reversed.

3. Claims 4 and 5

Claim 4 depends from claim 3 and further recites that "the router is coupled to a second plurality of subnets, the second plurality of subnets connecting to the multiport switch through the router." The Examiner contends that Siddiqui, in Fig. 2 and at column 4, lines 45-63, discloses the features of claim 4. (Final Office Action, page 6).

Again, Appellants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of Siddiqui. Although Fig. 2 of Siddiqui includes a network labeled as an "IP Network," the network of Siddiqui does not appear to include subnets, much less a router coupled to a second plurality of subnets, as recited in claim 4. Column 4, lines 45-63 of Siddiqui, which were also cited by the Examiner as disclosing the features of claim 4, states:

> Referring now to FIG. 2, illustrated is a block schematic of an exemplary system 200 for routing data packets through a "connectionless" packet-switched network, without bearer-control signaling. The network components illustrated in FIG. 2 are essentially the same as those illustrated in FIG. 1, with the exception that the network medium connecting MGW 120-A and 120-B is a connectionless network, such as an Internet Protocol (IP) based network, and MGW 120-B includes modifications to provide the functionality disclosed herein. As illustrated in FIG. 2, MGW 120-A and 120-B each assign a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) port 221-A and 221-B, respectively, as a resource for transmitting and receiving media data through the IP network; additional UDP ports can be used to route additional media data streams. In addition, MGW 120-B provides a Port Mapping Table that, as described in detail hereinafter, is used to associate UDP port 221-A to UDP port 221-B.

This section of Siddiqui completely fails to disclose a router or subnets, much less the specific arrangement of these elements, as recited in claim 4.

For at least this reason also, the rejections of claim 4 and 5 based on Siddiqui is improper and should be reversed.

4. Claims 8-11

Independent claim 8 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Siddiqui. Appellants submit that Siddiqui does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 8.

Claim 8 is directed to a method of processing packets in a network device, including, among other things, allowing a remote processor to remotely configure a configuration table, the remote processor transmitting information to configure the configuration table using an IP address uniquely assigned to the network device. Siddiqui does not disclose or suggest any such feature. As previously discussed, although Siddiqui discloses a MGW 120-B that includes a port mapping table 230, port mapping table 230 cannot be said to be configurable by a remote processor, and thus could not be said to disclose or suggest the features of claim 8, including allowing a remote processor to remotely configure a configuration table, the remote processor transmitting information to configure the configuration table using an IP address uniquely assigned to the network device. In contradistinction, Siddiqui makes it clear that port mapping table 230 of MGW 120-B is configured by MGW 120-B, and is therefore not remotely configured. (See, for

example, Siddiqui, column 5, lines 12-45).

For at least these reasons, Appellants submit that Siddiqui does not disclose or suggest each of the features recited in claim 8. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 8-11 is improper and should be reversed.

5. Claims 13-17

Independent claim 13 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Siddiqui. Appellants submit that Siddiqui does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 13.

Claim 13 is directed to a network device comprising a number of elements, including, for example, a configuration table storing associations between Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of subnets and output ports of the multiport switch, the configuration table being remotely updated to reflect configuration information received from a remote processor. Appellants submit that Siddiqui fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of the invention. As previously discussed, although Siddiqui discloses a MGW 120-B that includes a port mapping table 230, port mapping table 230 is not configurable by a remote processor, and thus could not be said to disclose or suggest a configuration table "being remotely updated to reflect configuration information received from a remote processor", as recited in claim 13.

Claim 13 additionally recites means for receiving packets from a network, each of the packets having information that includes at least destination information that indicates

an intended destination subnet for the packet, and means for determining appropriate output ports in the network device for the received packets based on the destination information and the configuration table. Siddiqui also fails to disclose or suggest these aspects of claim 13. Siddiqui discloses a number of media gateways for communicating media data through a connection oriented network. (Siddiqui, col. 3, lines 48-52). Siddiqui, however, is not directed to a device for routing packets that includes the means for receiving and the means for determining appropriate output ports recited in claim 13.

In rejecting claim 13, the Examiner contends that Siddiqui, at column 4, lines 10-17 and column 5, lines 20-26, discloses the means for determining appropriate output ports in the network device for the received packets based on the destination information and the configuration table. (Final Office Action, page 8). Appellants have reviewed these sections of Siddiqui and submit that it does not disclose or suggest the means for determining recited in claim 13.

More specifically, column 4, lines 10-17 of Siddiqui states:

> ... such as a wireless network or a wireline network, such as the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). The MGW-C 110-A sends an Add request to the MGW 120-A using, for example, a conventional GCP; the Add request instructs the MGW 120-A to allocate resources for routing media data. The MGW 120-A acknowledges the Add request with an Accept message. The MGW-C 110-A then sends an ISUP Initial Address Message (IAM) to MGW-C 110-B.

Column 5, lines 20-26 of Siddiqui states:

> ... and acknowledges the Add request with an Accept message, which includes the Source IP Address of MGW 120-A and the reserved UDP Port. The MGW-C 110-A then sends an ISUP Initial Address Message (IAM) to MGW-C 110-B; the IAM includes the IP address of MGW 120-

> A in the OPC field, and the reserved UDP Port address "5555" in the CIC field. Upon receiving the IAM, the MGW-C 110-B sends an Add request to the MGW 120-B.

These sections of Siddiqui relate to requesting a call setup using an Add request and acknowledging the Add request with an Accept message. These sections of Siddiqui, however, do not disclose or suggest, as recited in claim 13, means for determining appropriate output ports in the network device for the received packets based on the destination information and the configuration table.

For at least these reasons, Appellants submit that Siddiqui does not disclose or suggest each of the features recited in claim 13. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 13-17 is improper and should be reversed.

B. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Dobbins should be reversed.

1. Claims 8 and 13

Dobbins does not disclose each of the features recited in claim 8. Dobbins, for example, completely fails to disclose or suggest, as is recited in claim 8, allowing a remote processor to remotely configure the configuration table recited in claim 8, the remote processor transmitting information to configure the configuration table using an IP address uniquely assigned to the network device. In rejecting claim 8, the Examiner points to a number of features in Dobbins as allegedly corresponding to this feature, including Figs. 15 and 16 and the corresponding textual description in Dobbins. (Final

Office Action, page 3).

Fig. 15 of Dobbins illustrates a VLAN domain in which a plurality of VLAN switches 141 and 142 are managed by a VLAN management application 143. (Dobbins, column 19, lines 62-64). The Examiner appears to contend that the VLAN management application 143 corresponds to the functionality corresponding to the remote processor recited in claim 8. In this respect, Dobbins discloses: "[t]he management application 143 communicates with each switch on links 147 via the SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol) messaging protocol. The switches may contain SMNP MIBs for element management and remote control of the switch elements." (Dobbins, column 20, lines 1-6). Although this section of Dobbins may disclose that switches in Dobbins are generally "remote controlled" by management application 143, management application 143 of Dobbins is in no way disclosed or suggested as, for example, being able to "remotely configure the configuration table," as recited in claim 8, or "transmitting information to configure the configuration table using an IP address uniquely assigned to the network device," as is also recited in claim 8.

Fig. 16 of Dobbins illustrates a representative network topology built with six secure fast packet switches. (Dobbins, column 20, lines 12-14). Fig. 16 also illustrates a "network management station." This network management station of Dobbins, however, is not, as is recited in claim 8, able to "remotely configure the configuration table" or transmit "information to configure the configuration table using an IP address uniquely assigned to the network device," as recited in claim 8.

In addressing arguments similar to those made above in the previous Office Action, the Examiner, in the "Response to Arguments" section of the Final Office Action (page 10), maintained that "Dobbins discloses a remote processor . . . to remotely configure the configuration table (see col. 19, lines 60 to col. 20, lines 20; see col. 10, line 90-46; management application allows/provides mapping FIG. 3A-b; see col. 22, lines 1-15; management server in the network remotely configures/provision/update the table)". (Final Office Action, page 10).

Appellants have carefully reviewed these cited sections of Dobbins. Column 9, line 66 through column 10, line 46 of Dobbins relates to switch "discovery" in which a switch obtains a local directory that contains node related information. (Dobbins, column 9, line 66 through column 10, line 15). Dobbins, however, does not disclose or suggest allowing a remote processor to remotely configure the configuration table recited in claim 8, the remote processor transmitting information to configure the configuration table using an IP address uniquely assigned to the network device. The management application 143 discussed at portions of columns 19 through 22 of Dobbins does not remotely configure a configuration table. If anything, Dobbins appears to disclose that within a switch module 178, a local "discovery agent 188 provides a mapping of local end systems to switching ports through a passive listening (snooping) capability." (Dobbins, col. 20, lines 36-38).

For at least these reasons, Appellants submit that Dobbins does not disclose or suggest each of the features recited in claim 8. The rejection of claims 8 and 13 under 35

U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Dobbins should therefore be reversed.

C. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Siddiqui and Tsuruoka should be reversed.

1. Claims 6, 12, 18

Tsuruoka describes a gateway apparatus that operates as a Layer 3 routing apparatus for a local network and operates as a terminal for an outside network. (Tsuruoka, Title and Abstract).

Claim 6 further defines the features of claim 1 and recites that the multiport switch is a layer 3 switch. The Examiner contends that "it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a layer 3 gateway switch, as taught by Tsuruoka in the system of Siddiqui, so that the connection procedure and cost remain substantially the same as the corresponding procedure and cost, and ensuring the connectivity similar to network connection." (Final Office Action, page 9).

Appellants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's conclusion of obviousness and submit that the Examiner has not made a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to Siddiqui and Tsuruoka. As described previously, Siddiqui describes communication between media gateways (MGWs). A media gateway is not a layer 3 gateway switch, and there would be no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Siddiqui to include the layer 3 gateway switch of Tsuruoka. The Examiner's stated motivation for

modifying Siddiqui in view of Tsuruoka is conclusory and is simply a stated advantage of Tsuruoka that would in no way suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art the modification to Siddiqui suggested by the Examiner.

For at least these reasons, Appellants submit that Siddiqui and Dobbins, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 6, and the rejection of claims 6, 12 and 18 should accordingly be reversed.

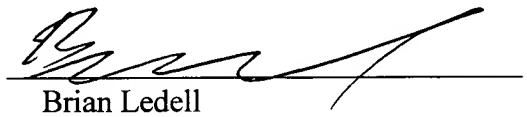
VIII. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing arguments, Appellants respectfully solicit the Honorable Board to reverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-18.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRITY SNYDER, L.L.P.

By: 
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IX. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A system for transmitting packets of information, comprising:

a multiport switch connected to a plurality of subnets through ports of the multiport switch, each of the plurality of subnets being associated with a subnet Internet Protocol (IP) address, the multiport switch further including a configuration table storing associations between the subnet IP addresses and the ports of the multiport switch;

a host processor connected locally to the multiport switch; and

a remote processor communicating with the multiport switch through the host processor using an IP address assigned to the multiport switch, the remote processor remotely configuring the configuration table in the multiport switch.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the host processor communicates with the remote processor through a TCP/IP stack.

3. The system of claim 1, further including:

a router coupled to at least one port of the multiport switch.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the router is coupled to a second plurality of subnets, the second plurality of subnets connecting to the multiport switch through the router.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the remote processor is located in one of the second plurality of subnets.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the multiport switch is a layer 3 switch.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the host processor is configured to transmit status information relating to the multiport switch to the remote processor.

8. A method of processing packets in a network device, comprising:

receiving a packet at one of a plurality of receive ports in the network device, the packet including address information that indicates at least a destination subnet for the packet;

identifying, via a configuration table, one or more output ports in the network device for the packet based on the address information;

forwarding the packet to the destination subnet via the identified one or more output ports; and

allowing a remote processor to remotely configure the configuration table, the remote processor transmitting information to configure the configuration table using an IP address uniquely assigned to the network device.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the remote processor communicates with

the network device through a host processor connected to the network device.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the host processor executes a TCP/IP stack.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the host processor transmits status information relating to the network device to the remote processor.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the network device is a layer 3 switch.

13. A network device for routing packets received in a packet-switched network comprising:

means for receiving the packets from the network, each of the packets having information that includes at least destination information that indicates an intended destination subnet for the packet;

a configuration table storing associations between Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of subnets and output ports of the multiport switch, the configuration table being remotely updated to reflect configuration information received from a remote processor;

means for determining appropriate output ports in the network device for the received packets based on the destination information and the configuration table; and

transmit means for transmitting the packets from the output ports determined by

the means for determining.

14. The network device of claim 13, further including:

a host processor connected locally to the network device, the host processor communicating with the remote processor.

15. The network device of claim 14, wherein the host processor communicates with the remote processor through a TCP/IP stack.

16. The network device of claim 14, wherein the host processor transmits status information relating to the network device to the remote processor.

17. The network device of claim 13, wherein the network device is assigned a unique IP address.

18. The network device of claim 13, wherein the network device is a layer 3 switch.

X. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None

XI. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None